

## ABSTRACT

A hydrogen absorbing alloy for an alkaline storage battery having a crystal structure of a  $\text{CaCu}_5$  type and represented by a composition formula  $\text{MmNi}_x\text{Co}_y\text{Mn}_z\text{M}_{1-z}$  (in the formula, M is at least one element selected from aluminum Al and copper Cu, x is a composition ratio of nickel Ni and satisfies  $3.0 \leq x \leq 5.2$ , y is a composition ratio of cobalt Co and satisfies  $0 \leq y \leq 1.2$ , and z is a composition ratio of manganese Mn and satisfies  $0.1 \leq z \leq 0.9$ , with the proviso that the sum of x, y, and z satisfies  $4.4 \leq x + y + z \leq 5.4$ ) is so adapted as to have a surface region and a bulk region covered with the surface region and satisfy the condition of  $a/b \geq 1.2$ , letting a be the sum of the respective abundance ratios of atoms Ni, Co, and Mn in the surface region and letting b the sum of the respective abundance ratios of atoms Ni, Co, and Mn in the bulk region.